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MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest)

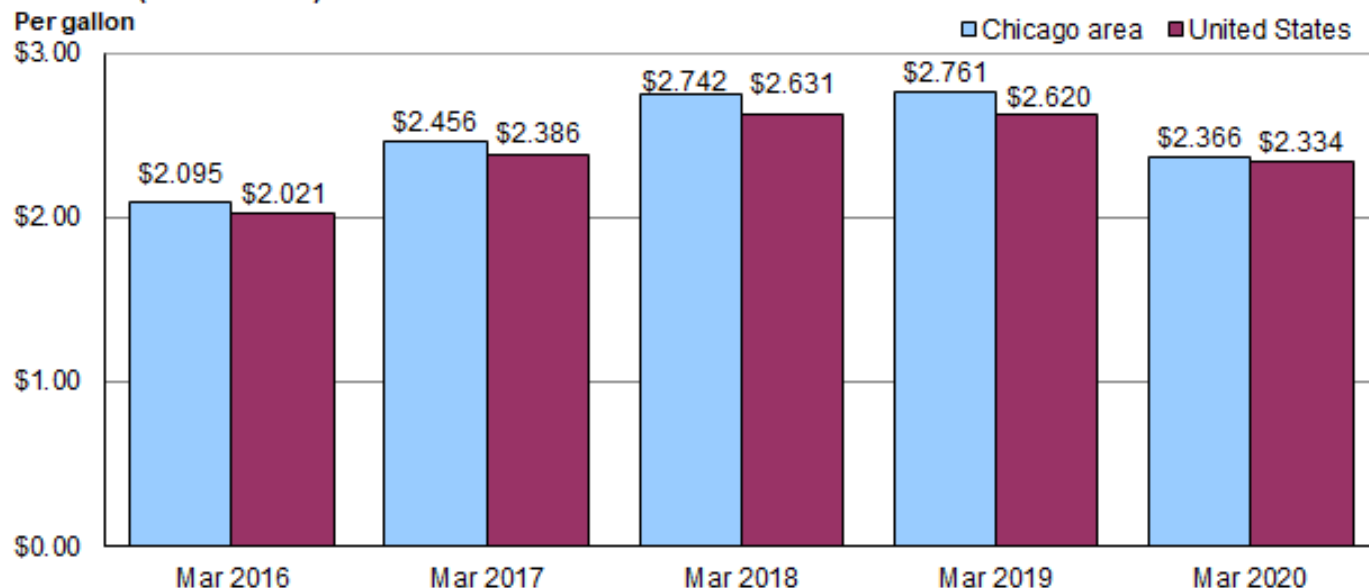
Media contact: (312) 353-1138

### Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — March 2020

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.366 per gallon in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area in March 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were down 39.5 cents compared to March 2019 when they averaged \$2.761 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 14.3 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in March 2020, less than the 16.1 cents in March 2019. In March, the average cost of utility (piped) gas was 75.7 cents per therm, less than its average price of 77.2 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

The \$2.366 per gallon Chicago households paid for gasoline in March 2020 was more than the nationwide average of \$2.334. In the previous four years in March (2016-2019), Chicago area gasoline prices ranged from 7.0 cents to 14.1 cents more than the national average. (See [chart 1.](#))

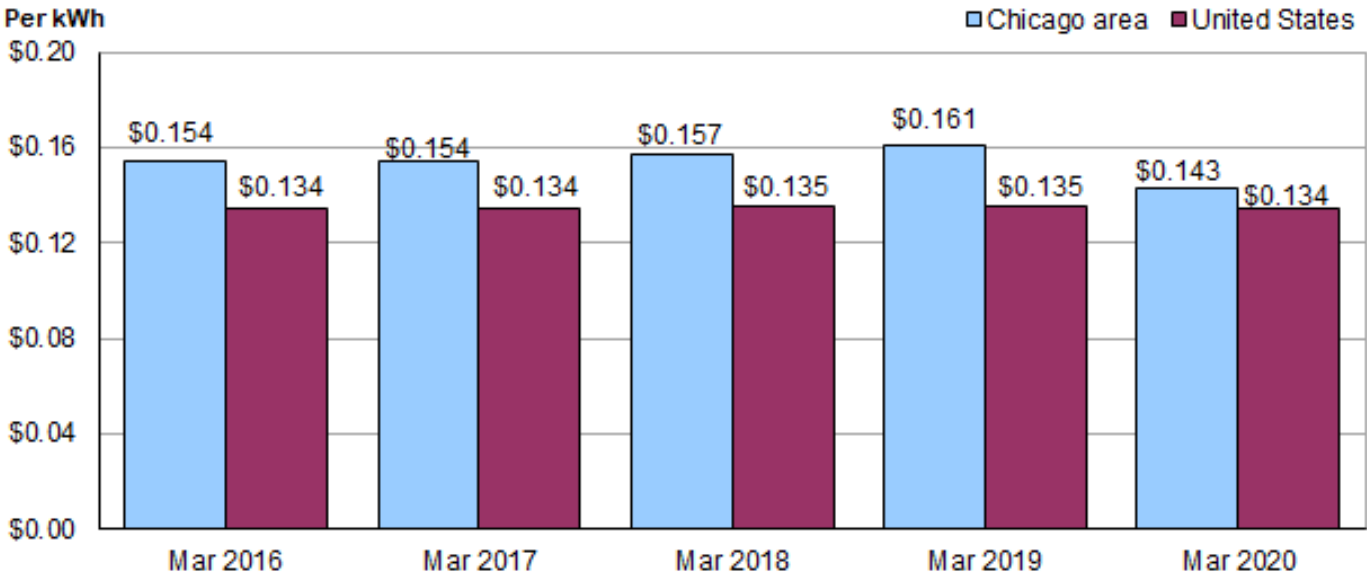
**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, 2016–20 (as of March)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 14.3 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in March 2020 was 6.7 percent more than the nationwide average cost of 13.4 cents per kWh. Average electricity costs in Chicago were higher than the national average in the previous four years (2016-2019) in March, ranging from 14.9 percent to 19.3 percent more. (See [chart 2.](#))

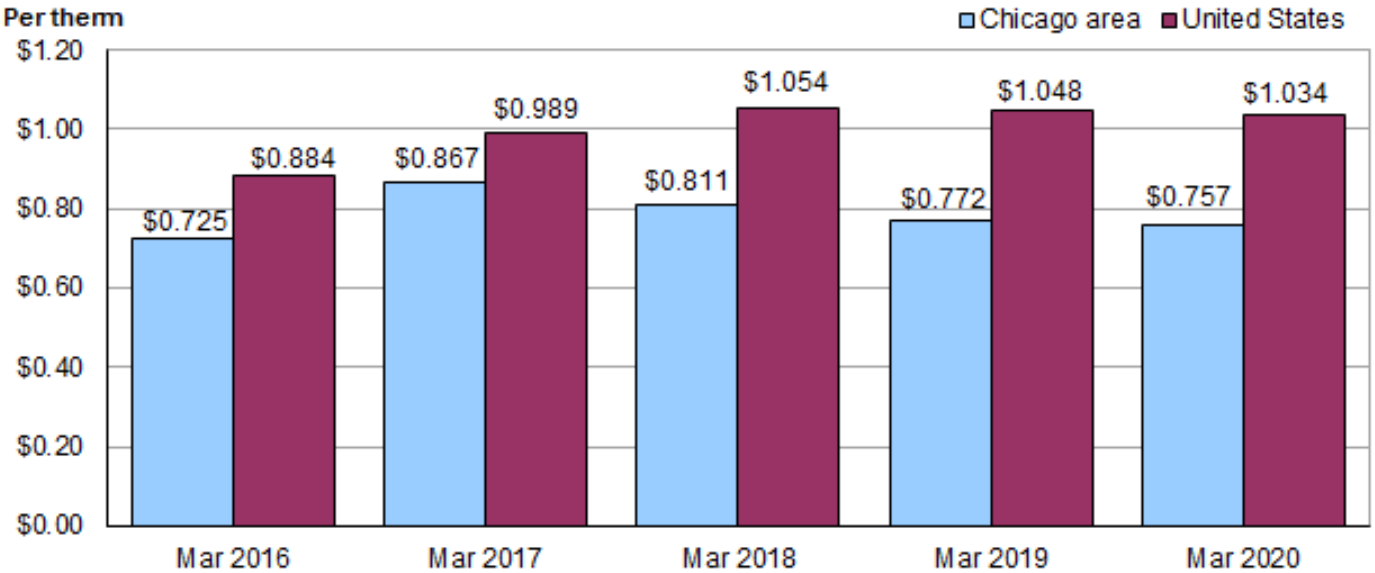
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, 2016–20 (as of March)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Chicago area households for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 75.7 cents per therm in March 2020, 26.8 percent less than the national average of \$1.034 per therm. In each of the previous four years (2016-2019) in March, Chicago area utility (piped) gas costs were lower than the national average, ranging from 12.3 percent to 26.3 percent less. (See [chart 3.](#))

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, 2016–20 (as of March)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI**, core based statistical area consists of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Historical average energy prices for the U.S. and select metropolitan areas are available at [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices\\_selectedareas\\_table.htm](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices_selectedareas_table.htm).

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**The Consumer Price Index for April 2020 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.**

### **Technical Note**

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, and the United States, March 2019 – March 2020, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Chicago area	United States	Chicago area	United States	Chicago area	United States
<b>2019</b>						
March .....	\$2.761	\$2.620	\$0.161	\$0.135	\$0.772	\$1.048
April .....	3.066	2.894	0.165	0.135	0.760	1.034
May.....	3.166	2.963	0.161	0.136	0.778	1.035
June.....	2.994	2.814	0.161	0.139	0.812	1.035
July .....	3.095	2.836	0.157	0.140	0.799	1.029
August .....	2.863	2.716	0.164	0.139	0.792	1.034
September.....	2.796	2.694	0.161	0.139	0.756	1.019
October.....	2.733	2.741	0.166	0.136	0.767	1.041
November.....	2.676	2.687	0.141	0.133	0.764	1.058
December.....	2.638	2.652	0.141	0.133	0.760	1.057
<b>2020</b>						
January.....	2.682	2.631	0.145	0.134	0.772	1.066
February .....	2.629	2.530	0.149	0.134	0.770	1.050
March .....	2.366	2.334	0.143	0.134	0.757	1.034